draw its project to set up a salt manufacturing project in Kutch region;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the reasons for the withdrawal; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) A letter of permission was issued to M/s. Cargill South-East Asia Ltd., Singapore in August, 1992 to set up a 100% export oriented unit in Kutch district of Gujarat for manufacture of 10 lakh tonnes of solar salt per annum, at the estimated cost of US $ 15 million, with the condition that the entire (100%) production will be exported. The party has, however, decided to withdraw the project due to non-availability of land and litigation involved.

Growth of SSI units in less developed areas

2025. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to encourage the growth of small scale industries in less developed areas; and

(b) what concessions are being offered to small scale industries, both registered and unregistered, to facilitate their growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The steps taken by Government to encourage the growth of small scale industries in less developed areas are:

(i) In the Union Budget for 1993-94, a five year tax holiday has been granted for new industrial undertakings located in all the North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Goa and U.T. of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry. This step aims to give a stimulus to new investment in these States in which all the Districts are industrially backward.

(ii) A scheme of Integrated Infrastructural Development (including technological back up services) for small scale industries in rural/backward areas with the objective to provide infrastructures like land, water, power lines, roads, communication, common and technological back up support to small scale industries in rural/backward areas is under finalisation.

(iii) Government of India also provide transport subsidy for development of small scale industries in North-Eastern Regions and some hilly areas.

(iv) State Government provide capital investment subsidy, sales tax exemption/deferment and power subsidy, etc. for growth of small scale industries in less developed areas.

(b) The concessions offered by Central Government to Small Scale Industries, both registered and unregistered, include exemption in excise duty, concessional rates of interest on loans, marketing facility of their products through NSIC and SSIDCs, reservation of items for exclusive manufacture, reservation of items for purchase, price preference in purchase from the small scale sector. Some of the important concessions provided by the State Governments related to land at concessional rate and on priority, investment subsidy, power subsidy, sales tax concessions, entry tax concessions, generating set subsidy, State transport subsidy, rebate of interest rates, rebate on octroi etc.

Impact of Liberalisation of economy on SSI units

2026. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small scale industries have performed better than other

sector in so far as creation of employment in the Indian economy is concerned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the liberalisation of the economy is causing obstacles for the future growth of small scale industries; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure the survival and growth of this employment generating sector of the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has constantly been reviewing the impact of liberalisation and is of the view that this will help this sector to grow at faster rate. Government however, is also aware of the apprehensions expressed from various quarters on the adverse impact of liberalisation. With this end in view, the policy of reservation is being continued, fiscal concessions have been enhanced and to make SSI units more competitive, Government is providing support for modernisation, assistance for quality upgradation, etc. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P. R. Nayak, former Dy. Governor of RBI was constituted to examine the adequacy of institutional credit and related aspects. The Committee has submitted its report in Sept., 1992. RBI has already announced its acceptance of most of the recommendations.

No-Industry District in Bihar

2027. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of 'no Industry' districts in Bihar at present;

(b) what are the reasons for the non-industrialisation of these districts of the state; and

(c) what action Government propose to take for establishing industries in no industry districts of the State in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) There are six (6) "No Industry Districts" in the State of Bihar, namely, Aurangabad, Bhojpur, Khagaria, Nalanda, Purnea and Saharsa (including newly carved out district of Madhepura).

(b) and (c) Industrialisation of an area is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government to the extent possible.

Leather industry in Bihar

2028. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bihar is an ideal State for the development of leather industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of leather goods manufacturing units which are operational in the State at present and what is their average annual production with details of actual production during the last three years; and

(d) what action Government propose to take for the development of leather industry in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPTT. OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Bihar offers a good potential for development of leather industry. The total availability of cattle hides in the country as per the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras 1987 census is 373.96 lakh pieces out of which Bihar accounts for 37.01 lakh pieces.